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THE NEW MUTANTS
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Warning: Surgeons Have Generally Determined That Assistant Editors' Month Is Dangerous to Your Health.
BEWARE: IT'S ASSISTANT EDITORS' MONTH!
DON'T SAY WE DIDN'T WARN YOU
EXCITING NEWS INSIDE!!
SEE LETTERS PAGE

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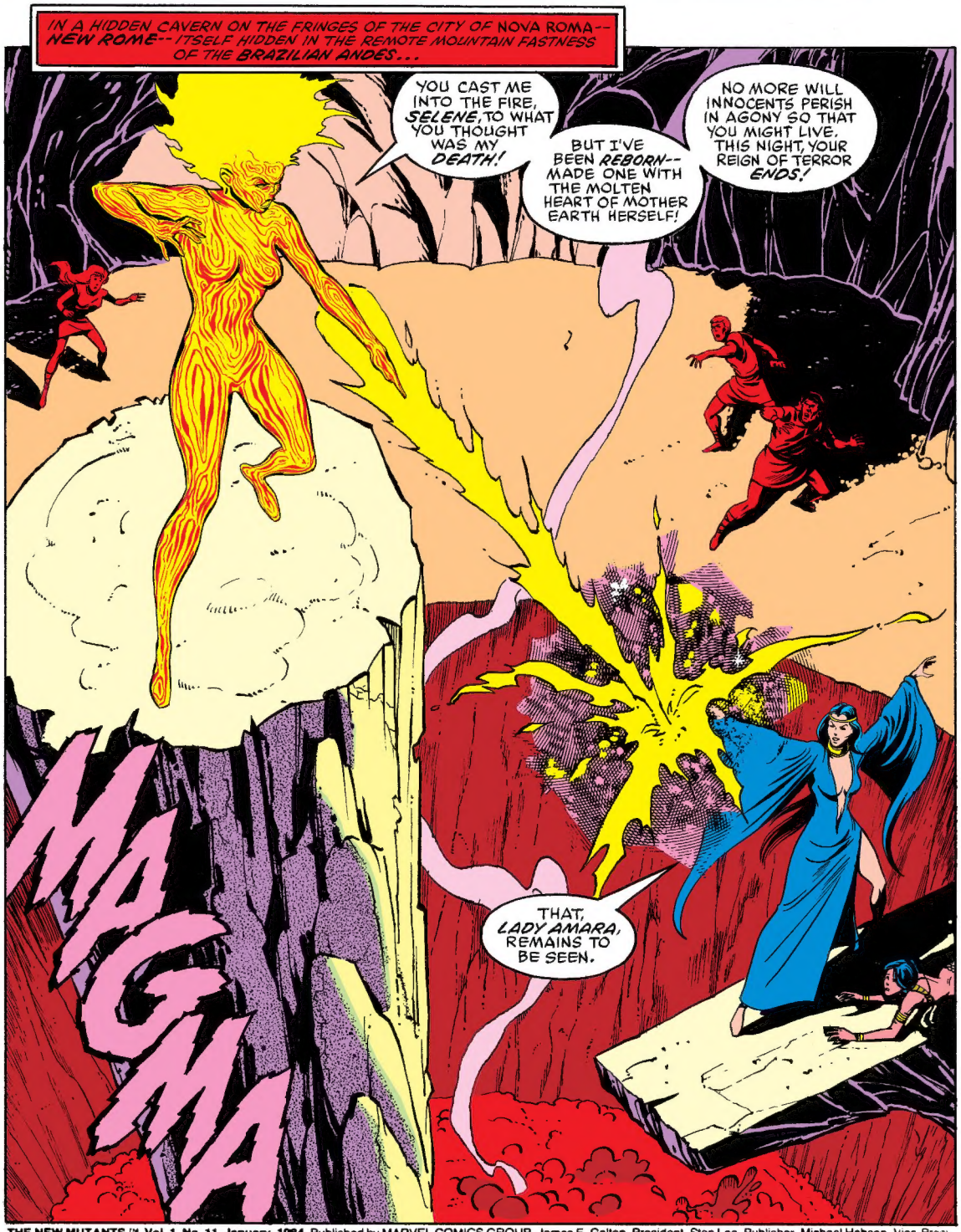
NEW MUTANTS STARS


IN A HIDDEN CAVERN ON THE FRINGES OF THE CITY OF NOVA ROMA--NEW ROME--ITSELF HIDDEN IN THE REMOTE MOUNTAIN FASTNESS OF THE BRAZILIAN ANDES...
YOU CAST ME INTO THE FIRE, SELENE, TO WHAT YOU THOUGHT WAS MY DEATH!
BUT I'VE BEEN REBORN--MADE ONE WITH THE MOLTEN HEART OF MOTHER EARTH HERSELF!
NO MORE WILL INNOCENTS PERISH IN AGONY SO THAT YOU MIGHT LIVE. THIS NIGHT, YOUR REIGN OF TERROR ENDS!
THAT, LADY AMARA, REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
MAGMA

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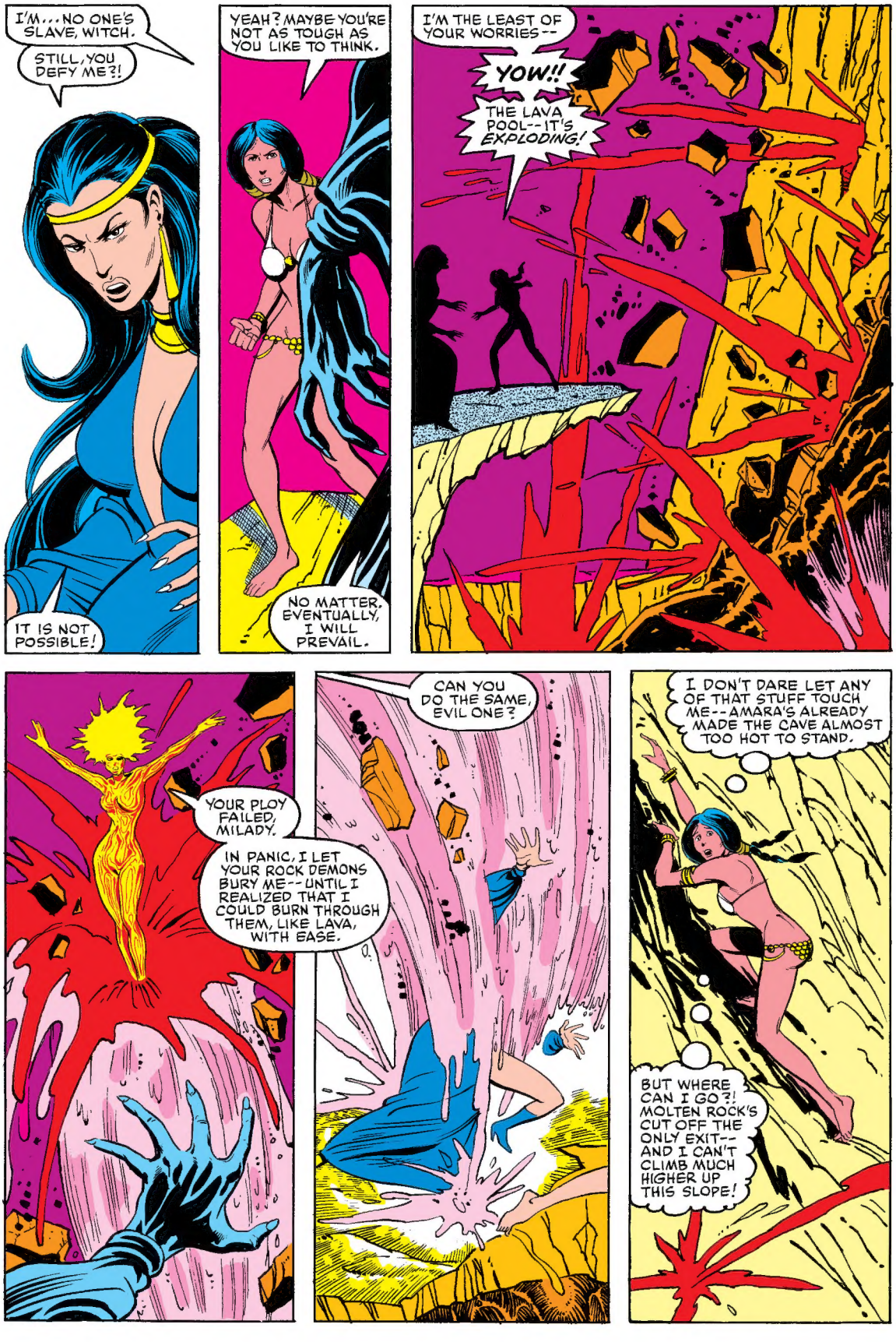
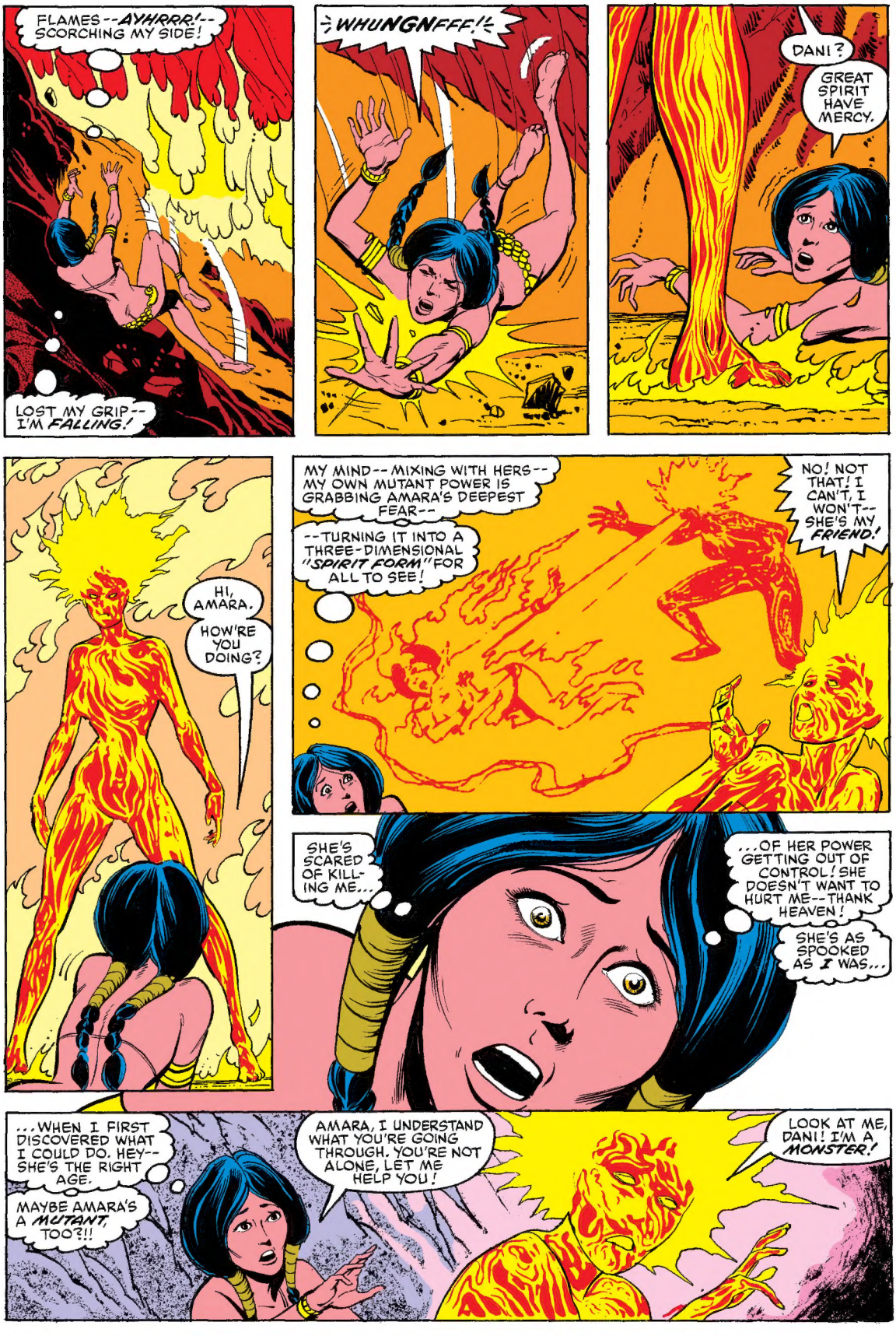
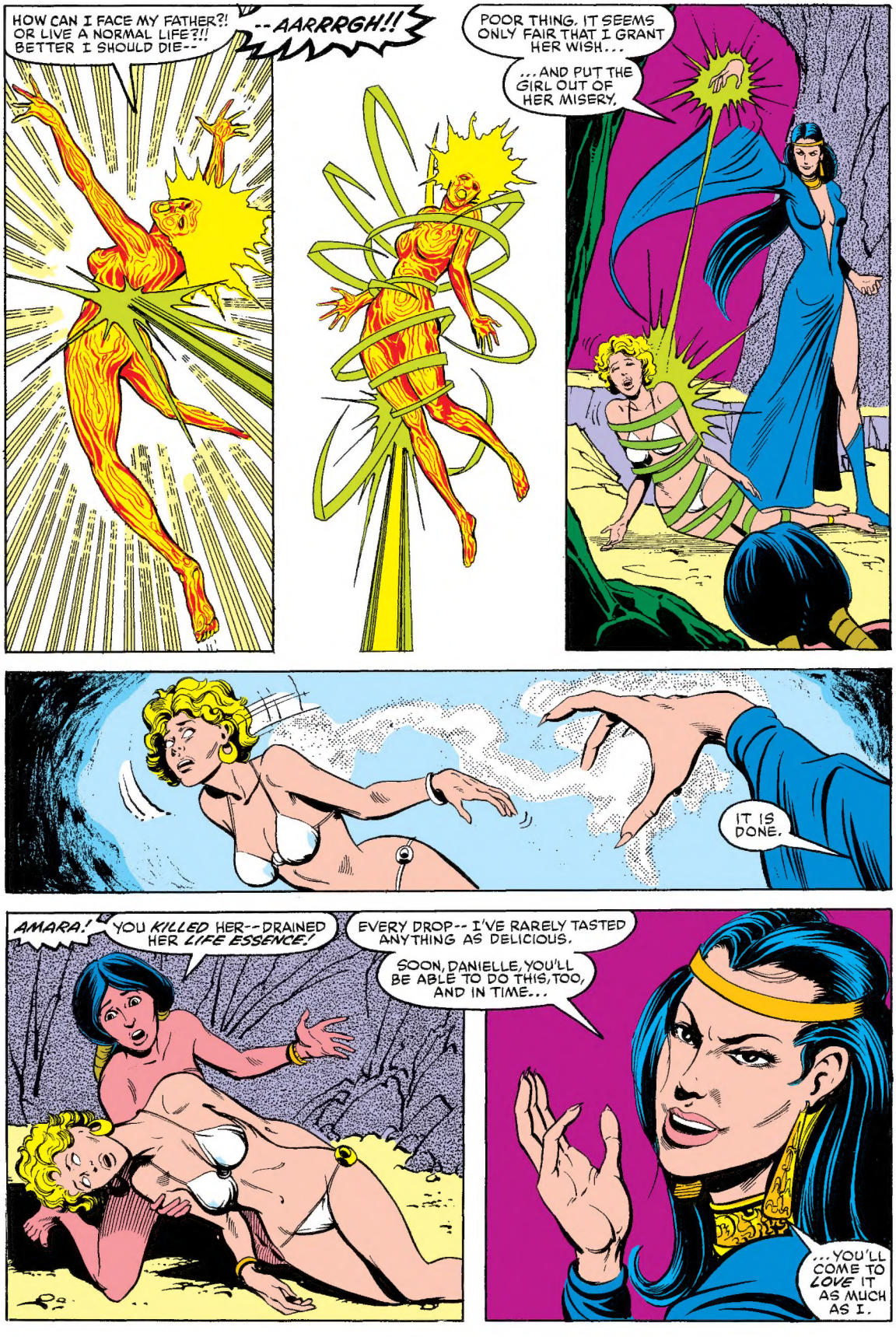
I HAVE PREYED ON HUMANKIND SINCE BEFORE THE DAWN OF HISTORY. MANY HAVE TRIED TO SLAY ME.
THEIR BLEACHED BONES ARE ELOQUENT TESTAMENT TO THEIR SUCCESS.
YOU EVIDENTLY COMMAND LIVING FLAME, GIRL...
...BUT MINE IS THE POWER TO BRING ALL THINGS INANIMATE--TO LIFE!
AYYIII!!
BRUTE FORCE--NO MATTER HOW STRONG--IS NO MATCH FOR MY SKILL AND EXPERIENCE.
THE CHILD WAS OUTMATCHED--SHE HAD NO CHANCE--FROM THE START.
AMARA!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND--WHAT HAPPENED TO AMARA?! THAT TRANSFORMATION WASN'T SELENE'S DOING--SHE WAS AS SURPRISED AS ME--GASP!
SELENE--BY MY ANCESTORS--YOUR FACE?!!
DOES MY APPEARANCE SHOCK YOU, DANIELLE MOONSTAR?
EACH VICTORY HAS ITS COST--THIS WAS DEARER THAN MOST.

FORTUNATELY, HOWEVER...
...MY CONDITION IS EASILY RECTIFIED...
...ALBEIT WITH THE SACRIFICE OF MY LOYAL DISCIPLES.
PRIESTESS, NO!
WE SERVED YOU WELL!
IN MERCY'S NAME--SPARE US!
YEARRGH!
WITH EACH DEATH--EACH EXQUISITE MOMENT OF AGONY--MY YOUTH AND VIGOUR ARE RESTORED.
FEEL IT, DANIELLE...
...THE DARKLING ECSTASY THAT SUSTAINS ME.
IS IT NOT WONDERFUL?! DO YOU NOT HUNGER FOR MORE?!
N-NO...
...YES! OH YES!!
WE ARE BOUND--BY NAME AND BLOOD--SUCH A LINK CAN NEVER BE BROKEN!
AS I MAKE YOU MINE, SO SHALL I DO THE SAME WITH YOUR FELLOW NEW MUTANTS. AND TOGETHER, WE SHALL REACH OUT ACROSS THE WORLD--TO MAKE IT OURS!


I'M...NO ONE'S SLAVE, WITCH.
STILL, YOU DEFY ME?!
IT IS NOT POSSIBLE!
YEAH? MAYBE YOU'RE NOT AS TOUGH AS YOU LIKE TO THINK.
NO MATTER. EVENTUALLY, I WILL PREVAIL.
I'M THE LEAST OF YOUR WORRIES--
YOW!!
THE LAVA POOL--IT'S EXPLODING!
YOUR PLOY FAILED, MILADY.
IN PANIC, I LET YOUR ROCK DEMONS BURY ME--UNTIL I REALIZED THAT I COULD BURN THROUGH THEM, LIKE LAVA, WITH EASE.
CAN YOU DO THE SAME, EVIL ONE?
I DON'T DARE LET ANY OF THAT STUFF TOUCH ME--AMARA'S ALREADY MADE THE CAVE ALMOST TOO HOT TO STAND.
BUT WHERE CAN I GO?! MOLTEN ROCK'S CUT OFF THE ONLY EXIT--AND I CAN'T CLIMB MUCH HIGHER UP THIS SLOPE!


FLAMES--AYHRRR!--SCORCHING MY SIDE!
LOST MY GRIP--I'M FALLING!
WHUNGNFFF!
DANI?
GREAT SPIRIT HAVE MERCY.
HI, AMARA.
HOW'RE YOU DOING?
MY MIND--MIXING WITH HERS--MY OWN MUTANT POWER IS GRABBING AMARA'S DEEPEST FEAR--
--TURNING IT INTO A THREE-DIMENSIONAL "SPIRIT FORM" FOR ALL TO SEE!
NO! NOT THAT! I CAN'T, I WON'T--SHE'S MY FRIEND!
SHE'S SCARED OF KILLING ME...
...OF HER POWER GETTING OUT OF CONTROL! SHE DOESN'T WANT TO HURT ME--THANK HEAVEN!
SHE'S AS SPOOKED AS I WAS...
...WHEN I FIRST DISCOVERED WHAT I COULD DO. HEY--SHE'S THE RIGHT AGE.
MAYBE AMARA'S A MUTANT, TOO?!!
AMARA, I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH. YOU'RE NOT ALONE, LET ME HELP YOU!
LOOK AT ME, DANI! I'M A MONSTER!


HOW CAN I FACE MY FATHER?! OR LIVE A NORMAL LIFE?!! BETTER I SHOULD DIE--
--AARRRGH!!
POOR THING. IT SEEMS ONLY FAIR THAT I GRANT HER WISH...
...AND PUT THE GIRL OUT OF HER MISERY.
IT IS DONE.
AMARA!
YOU KILLED HER--DRAINED HER LIFE ESSENCE!
EVERY DROP-- I'VE RARELY TASTED ANYTHING AS DELICIOUS.
SOON, DANIELLE, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO THIS, TOO, AND IN TIME...
...YOU'LL COME TO LOVE IT AS MUCH AS I.

MEANWHILE..
...AT VILLA AQUILLA--AMARA'S HOME--THE SURVIVORS OF HER FATHER'S PERSONAL GUARD ARE LED AWAY, UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYES OF TROOPS LOYAL TO SELENE'S HUSBAND, SENATOR MARCUS DOMITIUS GALLIO.
STANDING BY HIS SIDE, SEEMINGLY SHARING IN HIS TRIUMPH, ARE HIS ALLIES, DANI'S FELLOW NEW MUTANTS: SAM GUTHRIE, ROBERTO DaCOSTA AND RAHNE SINCLAIR.

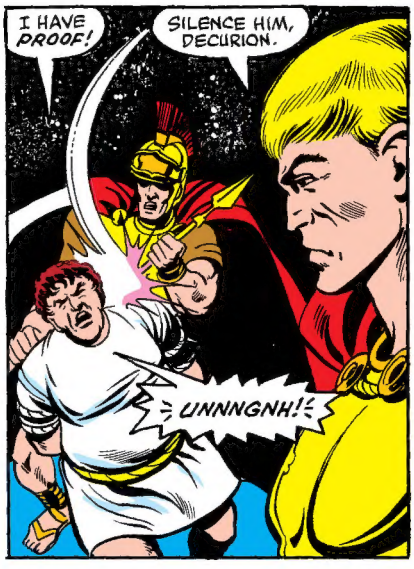
YOU HAVE DONE WELL, YOUNG FRIENDS.
YOUR AID WAS INVALUABLE IN SUPPRESSING AQUILLA'S TREASON AND SAVING ROME FROM CIVIL WAR.
SO HOW COME I FEEL SO LOUSY?

SENATOR GALLIO, OUR COMPANION, DANIELLE MOONSTAR, HAS BEEN MISSING ALL EVENING. WE'RE AFRAID SOMETHING MAY HAVE HAPPENED TO HER.

CENTURION, FORM SEARCH PARTIES, SCOUR THE CITY. I WANT THE GIRL FOUND, ALIVE AND UNHARMED.
<BUT, MILORD, SHE'S A MAIDEN! THE BLACK PRIESTESS MOST LIKELY HAS HER--!*>
<DON'T GIVE ME EXCUSES, DOLT--DO AS YOU'RE TOLD!>
*TRANSLATED FROM THE LATIN--L.

LORD GALLIO, LET ME HELP! WITH THE HUNTING SKILLS I POSSESS IN MY WOLF-FORM, I SHOULD PICK UP DANI'S TRAIL IN NO TIME!
<THAT, GIRL, IS THE LAST THING I WANT.>
YOU ARE CONSIDERED A GODDESS HERE, LADY RAHNE. LEAVE THIS TO ME.

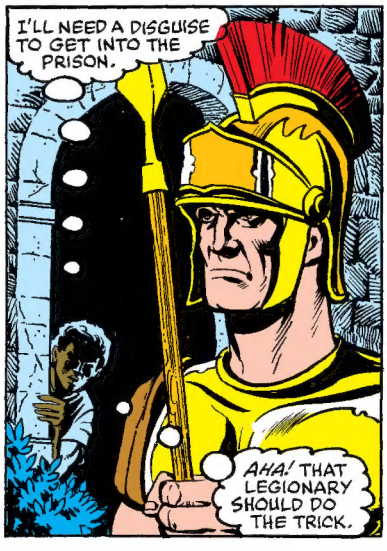
DO SO, GIRL, AND HE'LL BETRAY YOU--
--AS HE DID ROME! HE LIED TO YOU! IT'S GALLIO WHO'S THE TRAITOR, NOT I!
PAY NO ATTENTION TO SENATOR AQUILLA. HIS ARE THE RANTINGS OF A DEPRAVED, DEMENTED MIND.


I HAVE PROOF!
SILENCE HIM, DECURION.
UNNNGNH!

MADONNA! AMONG THE PRISONERS -- A WOMAN WITH RED HAIR! IT'S TOO DARK, I CAN'T SEE HER FACE!
COULD SHE BE MY MOTHER?!

SAM, COVER FOR ME.
HUH?! BOBBY, WHERE YOU GOIN'?!
TELL YOU LATER.
TAKE CARE OF RAHNE.

AND WATCH YOURSELF AS WELL. I THINK YOUR SUSPICIONS ABOUT GALLIO MAY BE RIGHT.
GOTCHA, BOBBY.
GOOD LUCK, PAL!


I'LL NEED A DISGUISE TO GET INTO THE PRISON.
AHA! THAT LEGIONARY SHOULD DO THE TRICK.

KLUNK!

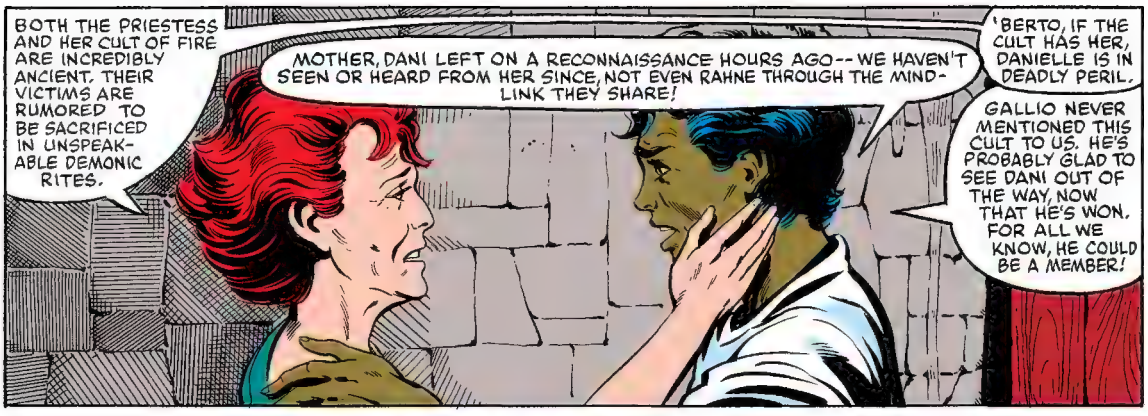
HE WOULD HAVE TO BE A GIANT.

BUT WITH A LITTLE LUCK, PROVIDED I STAY IN THE SHADOWS, HIS CLOAK SHOULD MASK THE DISCREPANCY IN OUR SIZES.
MY MOTHER WAS LOST IN THE RAPIDS DAYS AGO, WHEN OUR BOAT WAS WRECKED.* I FEARED HER DEAD...
...UNTIL I SAW THAT RED-HEADED WOMAN.
*NM#8 --L.

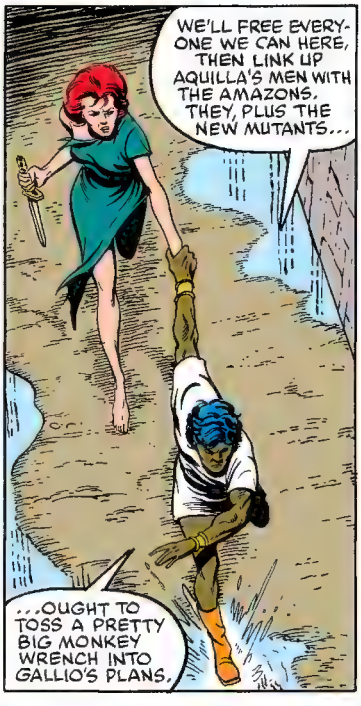
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A REAL MESS! BOTH GALLIO AND AQUILLA CLAIM TO BE THE GOOD GUYS.
GALLIO'S ALWAYS ACTED AS OUR FRIEND AND PROTECTOR.

SAM NEVER TRUSTED HIM, BUT RAHNE BELIEVES THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S ATTRACTED TO AQUILLA'S DAUGHTER, AMARA. RAHNE'S JEALOUS! I WONDER IF SAM'S AWARE OF HOW SHE FEELS ABOUT HIM?
EARLIER TONIGHT, AN ASSASSIN TRIED TO KILL US.
HE CLAIMED TO BE WORKING FOR AQUILLA.
THAT GAVE GALLIO AN AWFULLY CONVENIENT EXCUSE TO ELIMINATE HIS CHIEF POLITICAL RIVAL.
HE HAD HIS ARMY ALL READY TO GO, TOO. --EH?!
VOICES--
--I KNOW THEM BOTH!
YOU LIE, CASTRO. YOU ARE NOT IN MY HUSBAND'S EMPLOY!
TECHNICALLY, NO. I SERVE THE HELLFIRE CLUB.
BUT SENHOR DACOSTA WISHES TO EXPLOIT THE NATURAL WEALTH OF THIS HIDDEN LAND.
MY JOB IS TO ENSURE THAT WISH IS GRANTED.
THE SENHOR HE LOVES YOU, MADAME. HE WOULD NEVER ORDER YOUR DEATH.
BUT THIS IS A LONELY, DANGEROUS COUNTRY.
ACCIDENTS HAPPEN.
WITH MY HELP, GALLIO WILL BECOME NOVA ROMA'S FIRST EMPEROR. HE WILL THEN GRANT YOUR HUSBAND THE MINING CONCESSION.
A PITY YOU WON'T BE HERE TO SEE IT.
CASTRO!
GET LOST, SOLDIER! I WAS GUARANTEED PRIVACY BY YOUR COMMANDER, SENATOR GALLIO.

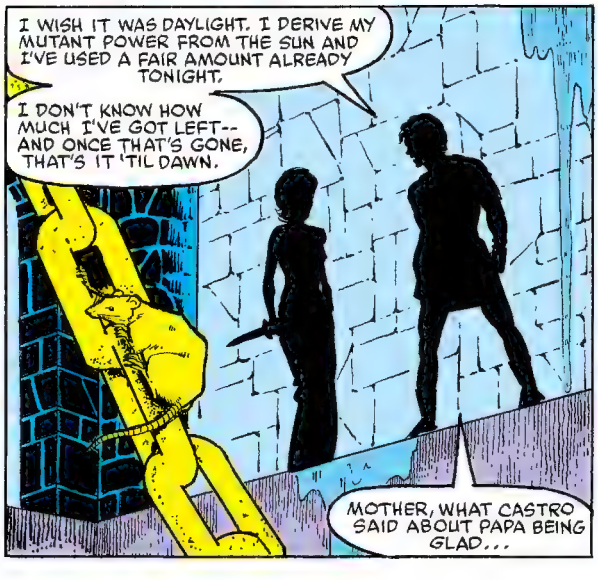
SUPPOSE I SAY DIFFERENT.
CARAMBA!
ROBERTO!
AS SUNSPOT, HE POSSESSES SUPER-HUMAN STRENGTH...
...FUELED BY THE POWER OF THE SUN ITSELF.
HE IS NOT INVULNERABLE. A BULLET COULD KILL HIM...
...PROVIDED IT IS FIRED.
MY SON--I... I FEARED I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN.
I THOUGHT THE SAME OF YOU.
OH, MOTHER--MOTHER!!
BUT THE RIVER--YOU WERE SWEPT AWAY FROM ME--!
I NEARLY DROWNED.
I WAS RESCUED BY AMAZONS! THEY'RE ALL FROM THIS CITY, 'BERTO--GIRLS SENT OUT INTO THE JUNGLE TO SAVE THEM FROM THE BLACK PRIESTESS!


BOTH THE PRIESTESS AND HER CULT OF FIRE ARE INCREDIBLY ANCIENT. THEIR VICTIMS ARE RUMORED TO BE SACRIFICED IN UNSPEAKABLE DEMONIC RITES.
MOTHER, DANI LEFT ON A RECONNAISSANCE HOURS AGO-- WE HAVEN'T SEEN OR HEARD FROM HER SINCE, NOT EVEN RAHNE THROUGH THE MIND-LINK THEY SHARE!
'BERTO, IF THE CULT HAS HER, DANIELLE IS IN DEADLY PERIL.
GALLIO NEVER MENTIONED THIS CULT TO US. HE'S PROBABLY GLAD TO SEE DANI OUT OF THE WAY, NOW THAT HE'S WON. FOR ALL WE KNOW, HE COULD BE A MEMBER!

ASIDE FROM RAHNE, GALLIO DOESN'T REALLY NEED ANY OF US ANYMORE.
MOTHER, CAN YOU CONTACT THE AMAZONS?
I BELIEVE SO. WHY?


WE'LL FREE EVERYONE WE CAN HERE, THEN LINK UP AQUILLA'S MEN WITH THE AMAZONS. THEY, PLUS THE NEW MUTANTS...
...OUGHT TO TOSS A PRETTY BIG MONKEY WRENCH INTO GALLIO'S PLANS.

AND DANIELLE?
I'D HELP HER IF I COULD. BUT SHE PROBABLY DOESN'T NEED IT. SHE CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF ALMOST AS WELL AS YOU.

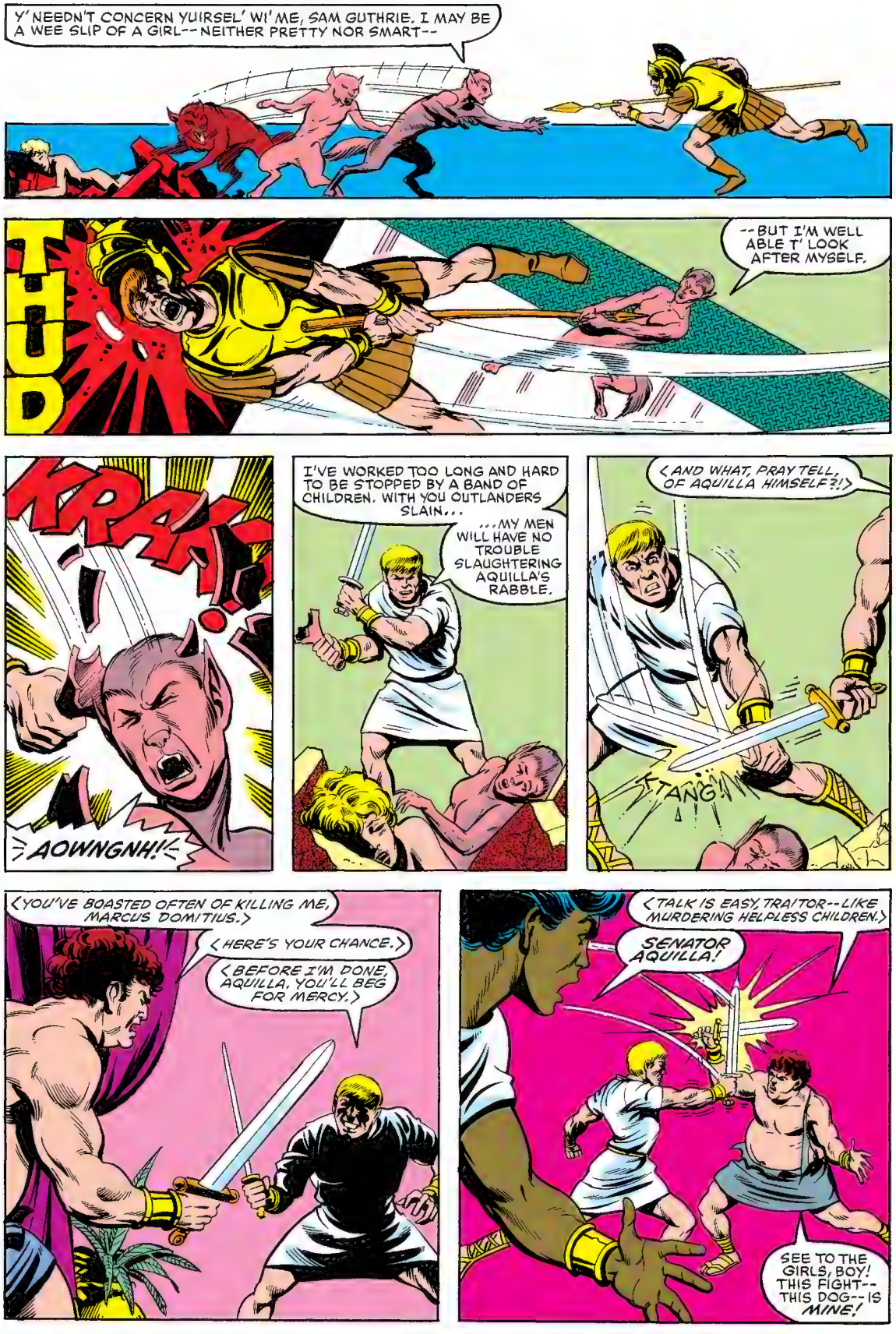

I WISH IT WAS DAYLIGHT. I DERIVE MY MUTANT POWER FROM THE SUN AND I'VE USED A FAIR AMOUNT ALREADY TONIGHT.
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH I'VE GOT LEFT-- AND ONCE THAT'S GONE, THAT'S IT 'TIL DAWN.
MOTHER, WHAT CASTRO SAID ABOUT PAPA BEING GLAD...

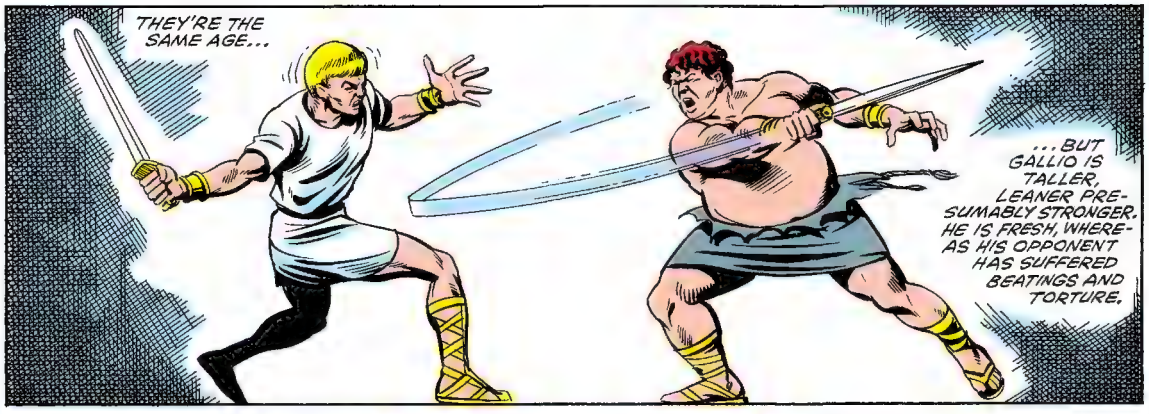
...IS IT TRUE?
IS IT TRUE?!!
YOUR FATHER HAS DREAMS, ROBERTO, AMBITIONS...
YES.

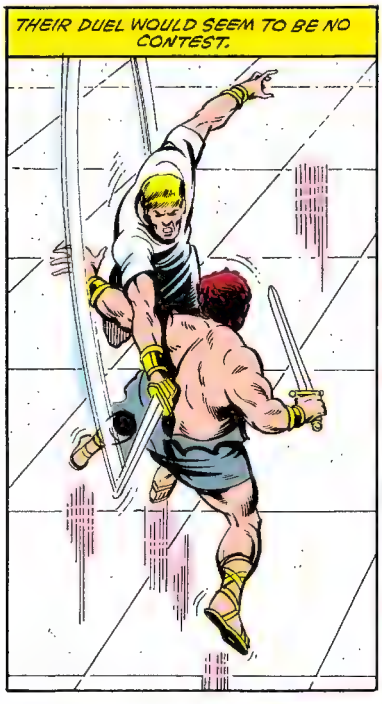
ELSEWHERE...
ROBERTO'S MOOD OF BITTER BETRAYAL...
...IS BEGINNING TO BE SHARED BY HIS TEAMMATES...
IF SENATOR AQUILLA WERE THE SCUM O' THE EARTH, HE WOULDN'T DESERVE TO BE TREATED LIKE THIS.
THEY'VE WHIPPED HIM RAW!
SAM'S ANGRY-- PROB'LY WI' ME--AN' WITH GOOD REASON. THIS IS MY FAULT.
SENATOR GALLIO WAS SO NICE TO US, HOW COULD HE BE SO CRUEL TO SENATOR AQUILLA?
HE'S-- ENJOYING IT!
<ORDERS, SIR?>
<THE BOY HAS SERVED HIS PURPOSE. DISPOSE OF HIM. POISON IN HIS WINE SHOULD SUFFICE. ADD THE SLAVE-DRUG TO LADY RAHNE'S CUP.>
BE OF GOOD CHEER, LAD. THIS IS A NIGHT OF CELEBRATION!
SORRY, SIR. AH WAS WORRYIN' ABOUT DANI.
<LIAR! YOU'RE SUSPICIOUS OF ME-- BUT TOO LATE TO SAVE YOURSELF OR YOUR COMPANIONS.>
SHE'LL TURN UP, SAM. TRUST ME.
I PROPOSE OUR NEXT TOAST TO HER! DRINK DEEP, CHILDREN.
<FATHER!>
<BY ALL THE BLESSED GODS!!>
<THAT VOICE-- MERCIFUL HERA, IT CANNOT BE-- AMARA?!?>
<HELP ME, FATHER. I BEG YOU-- IF YOU LOVE ME-->
<-- SAVE ME!>

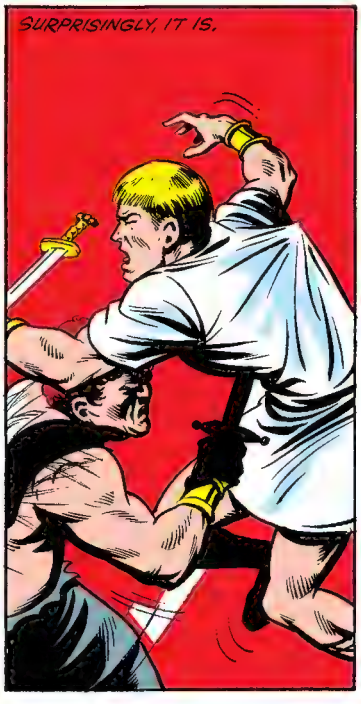
〈AQUILLA'S DAUGHTER HAS TRANSFORMED INTO A DEMON!〉
〈GUARDS-- SLAY THEM BOTH!〉
〈FLEE, AMARA! LEAVE ME TO MY FATE!〉
〈NO!〉
〈I...COULDN'T IF I WANTED TO--I'M... TOO WEAK--CAN'T EVEN... DEFEND YOU, FATHER.〉
DON'T WORRY, AMARA, THE NEW MUTANTS LOOK AFTER THEIR FRIENDS!
WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME HAPPENED TO HER?!?
〈LORD GALLIO!〉
〈AQUILLA'S LEGIONNAIRES-- AND THE OUTLAND AMAZONS-- WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!〉
PARDON MY ASKING, BUT ARE YOU TWO GOING TO LEND A HAND-- WE COULD CERTAINLY USE IT.
BOBBY, IS THAT YOUR MOM?!
ALIVE AND WELL, MY FRIEND, YOU WERE RIGHT ALL ALONG, WE'VE BEEN HELPING THE WRONG SIDE. NOW IT'S TIME TO MAKE AMENDS.
WITH A CRY OF INARTICULATE RAGE--
--THAT BECOMES A HOWL IN MID-LEAP--RAHNE ENTERS THE FRAY, TRANSFORMING FROM GIRL TO WOLF, DETERMINED TO ATONE FOR HER EARLIER MISJUDGEMENTS BY DEFENDING AMARA AND AQUILLA'S LIVES...
...WITH HER OWN.

RE-ENFORCEMENTS!
THESE NARROW HALLS FORCE THE TROOPS TO BUNCH CLOSE TOGETHER
MAKES IT A LOT EASIER FOR ME TO MOW 'EM DOWN!
FIRE EXPLODES FROM HIS BODY, HURLING HIM THROUGH THE AIR--AND THROUGH ANYTHING IN HIS PATH--
--WITH THE NIGH IRRESISTIBLE FORCE OF HIS NAMESAKE: CANNONBALL!
<I'LL GUT YOU, BOY!>
SOMEHOW, SOLDIER...
...I DON'T THINK SO.
THAT WAS DUMB. I SHOULD HAVE USED MY JUDO TRAINING TO DISARM HIM--I MAY NEED MY SUNSPOT POWERS LATER.
SHOULDER HURTS LIKE BLAZES--THAT WAS WHERE I WAS SHOT! HAVE I TORN OPEN THE WOUND?!!
WATCH YOUR BACK, BOBBY!
<YYIII!!!>
OBRIGADO, SAM. I OWE YOU ONE.
HEY, WE'RE BUDDIES, RIGHT? WHO KEEPS SCORE?
ACCORDING TO MY MOTHER, MOST OF THE ARMY IS STAYING NEUTRAL. IF WE DEFEAT GALLIO'S HOUSEHOLD TROOPS, THAT SHOULD DO THE TRICK.
GREAT--RAHNE, LOOK OUT!
HUH?!!

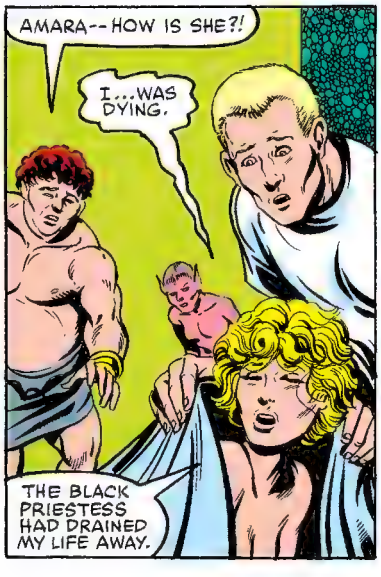

Y' NEEDN'T CONCERN YUIRSEL' WI' ME, SAM GUTHRIE. I MAY BE A WEE SLIP OF A GIRL--NEITHER PRETTY NOR SMART--
THUD
--BUT I'M WELL ABLE T' LOOK AFTER MYSELF.
KRAK!
AOWNGNH!
I'VE WORKED TOO LONG AND HARD TO BE STOPPED BY A BAND OF CHILDREN. WITH YOU OUTLANDERS SLAIN...
...MY MEN WILL HAVE NO TROUBLE SLAUGHTERING AQUILLA'S RABBLE.
<AND WHAT, PRAY TELL, OF AQUILLA HIMSELF?!>
TANG!
<YOU'VE BOASTED OFTEN OF KILLING ME, MARCUS DOMITIUS.>
<HERE'S YOUR CHANCE.>
<BEFORE I'M DONE, AQUILLA, YOU'LL BEG FOR MERCY.>
<TALK IS EASY, TRAITOR--LIKE MURDERING HELPLESS CHILDREN.>
SENATOR AQUILLA!
SEE TO THE GIRLS, BOY! THIS FIGHT--THIS DOG--IS MINE!

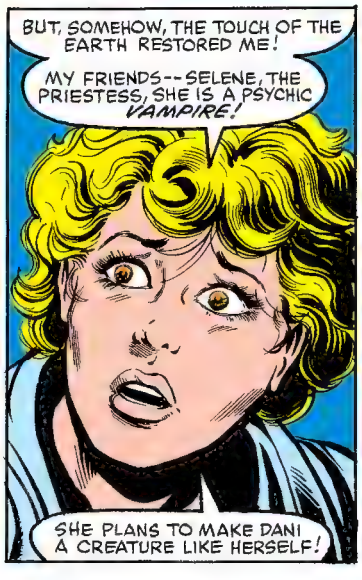

THEY'RE THE SAME AGE...
...BUT GALLIO IS TALLER, LEANER PRESUMABLY STRONGER. HE IS FRESH, WHEREAS HIS OPPONENT HAS SUFFERED BEATINGS AND TORTURE.


THEIR DUEL WOULD SEEM TO BE NO CONTEST.

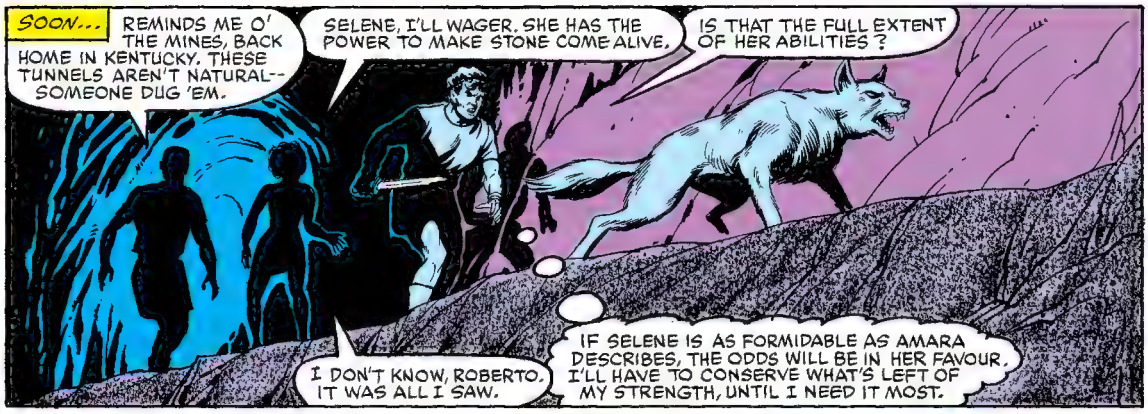

SURPRISINGLY, IT IS.

〈YOUR FLAW, GALLIO, WAS ALWAYS SEEING THINGS AS YOU WANTED THEM TO BE, NOT AS THEY TRULY WERE.〉
〈YOU NEVER DREAMED A FAT OLD SYBARITE LIKE ME MIGHT KNOW HOW TO FIGHT, OR POSSESS THE STRENGTH AND SKILL TO DO IT WELL.〉
〈MORE FOOL YOU.〉

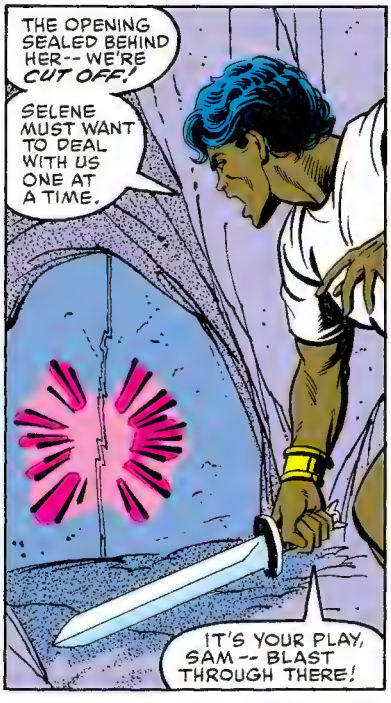

AMARA--HOW IS SHE?!
I...WAS DYING.
THE BLACK PRIESTESS HAD DRAINED MY LIFE AWAY.

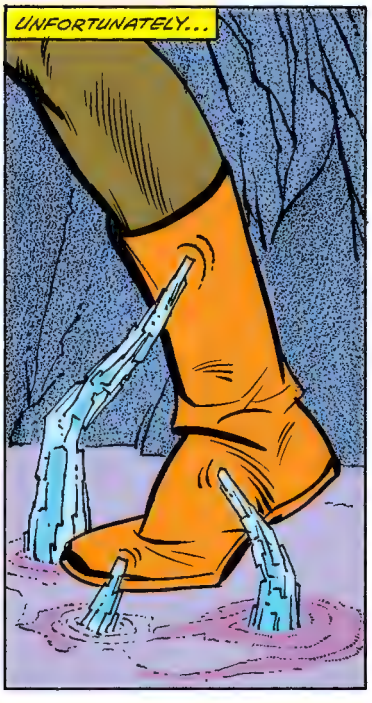

BUT, SOMEHOW, THE TOUCH OF THE EARTH RESTORED ME!
MY FRIENDS--SELENE, THE PRIESTESS, SHE IS A PSYCHIC VAMPIRE!
SHE PLANS TO MAKE DANI A CREATURE LIKE HERSELF!

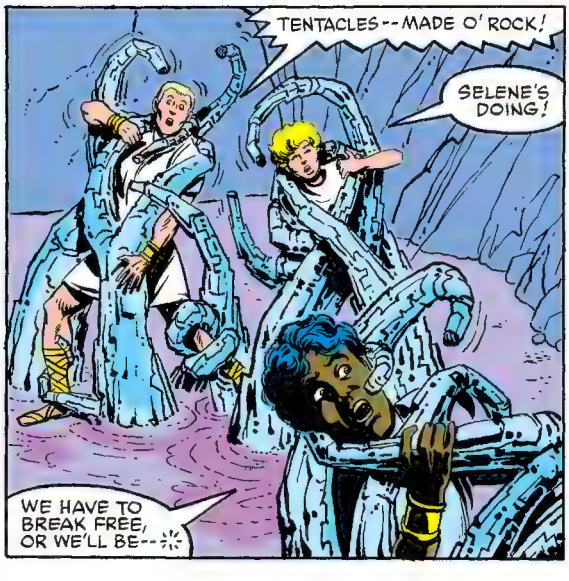
GALLIO'S WIFE?! IT FIGURES.
THE TUNNEL AMARA CREATED MUST LEAD BACK TO SELENE'S HIDEOUT. RAHNE, CAN YOU TRACK DANI FROM THERE?
AYE, 'BERTO--EVEN IF HER TRAIL LEADS TO THE GATES O' HELL ITSELF!

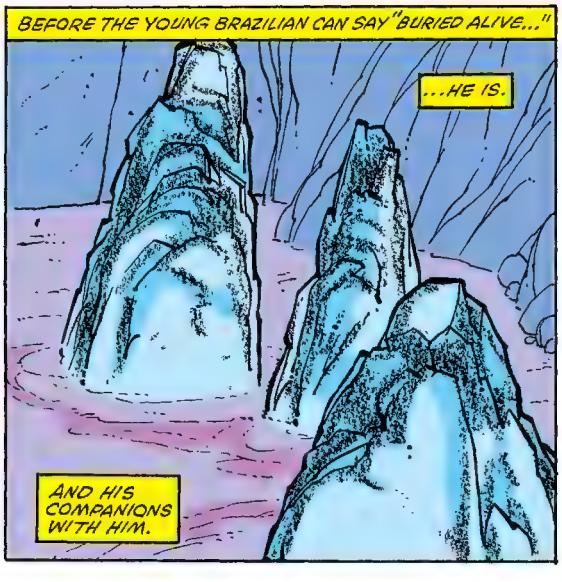

SOON...
REMINDS ME O' THE MINES, BACK HOME IN KENTUCKY. THESE TUNNELS AREN'T NATURAL-- SOMEONE DUG 'EM.
SELENE, I'LL WAGER, SHE HAS THE POWER TO MAKE STONE COME ALIVE.
IS THAT THE FULL EXTENT OF HER ABILITIES ?
I DON'T KNOW, ROBERTO. IT WAS ALL I SAW.
IF SELENE IS AS FORMIDABLE AS AMARA DESCRIBES, THE ODDS WILL BE IN HER FAVOUR. I'LL HAVE TO CONSERVE WHAT'S LEFT OF MY STRENGTH, UNTIL I NEED IT MOST.

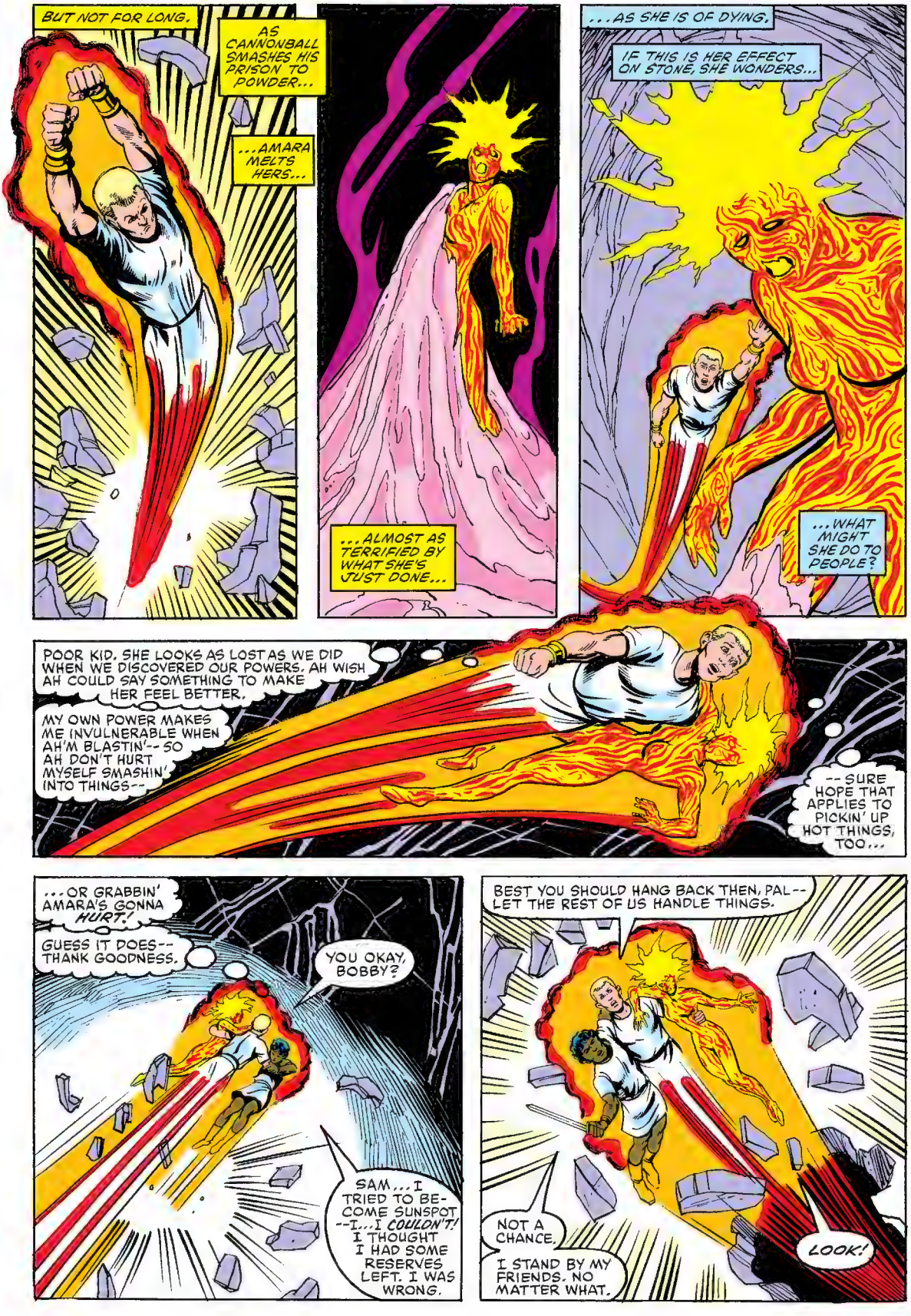
I WISH WE KNEW MORE ABOUT AMARA'S CAPABILITIES. IS SHE A MUTANT? THAT SEEMS THE LOGICAL EXPLANATION.
RAHNE, DON'T CHARGE SO FAR AHEAD!
ROUF!


THE OPENING SEALED BEHIND HER-- WE'RE CUT OFF!
SELENE MUST WANT TO DEAL WITH US ONE AT A TIME.
IT'S YOUR PLAY, SAM-- BLAST THROUGH THERE!


UNFORTUNATELY...


TENTACLES-- MADE O' ROCK!
SELENE'S DOING!
WE HAVE TO BREAK FREE, OR WE'LL BE--


BEFORE THE YOUNG BRAZILIAN CAN SAY "BURIED ALIVE..."
...HE IS.
AND HIS COMPANIONS WITH HIM.


BUT NOT FOR LONG.
AS CANNONBALL SMASHES HIS PRISON TO POWDER...
...AMARA MELTS HERS...
...ALMOST AS TERRIFIED BY WHAT SHE'S JUST DONE...
...AS SHE IS OF DYING,
IF THIS IS HER EFFECT ON STONE, SHE WONDERS...
...WHAT MIGHT SHE DO TO PEOPLE?
POOR KID. SHE LOOKS AS LOST AS WE DID WHEN WE DISCOVERED OUR POWERS. AH WISH AH COULD SAY SOMETHING TO MAKE HER FEEL BETTER.
MY OWN POWER MAKES ME INVULNERABLE WHEN AH'M BLASTIN'-- SO AH DON'T HURT MYSELF SMASHIN' INTO THINGS--
--SURE HOPE THAT APPLIES TO PICKIN' UP HOT THINGS, TOO...
...OR GRABBIN' AMARA'S GONNA HURT!
GUESS IT DOES-- THANK GOODNESS.
YOU OKAY, BOBBY?
SAM... I TRIED TO BE-COME SUNSPOT --I...I COULDN'T! I THOUGHT I HAD SOME RESERVES LEFT. I WAS WRONG.
BEST YOU SHOULD HANG BACK THEN, PAL-- LET THE REST OF US HANDLE THINGS.
NOT A CHANCE.
I STAND BY MY FRIENDS. NO MATTER WHAT.
LOOK!

LET ME DEAL WITH THE ROCK-WOLF.
IT'S BUT A SMALL MEASURE OF THE FATE I HAVE IN STORE FOR ITS CREATOR.
THE CAVALRY --AT LAST!
DO NOT DELUDE YOURSELF, APPRENTICE. THEY COME NOT TO YOUR RESCUE--
--BUT TO THEIR DOOM!
AMARA!
NOT DEAD? HOW DELICIOUS-- TO FEAST ONCE MORE...
...ON YOUR LIFE.
GRRRAR!
THAT'S IT, RAHNE! GET HER!!
AMARA, DON'T! THAT'S NOT OUR WAY, WE'RE NOT KILLERS!
ARRGH!
DID YOU LEARN NOTHING FROM OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER, SWEETLING?
I AM NOT TO BE TRIFLED WITH...
...NOR CAN I PERISH BY MORTAL MEANS.

Bullpen Bulletins

Hi! I'm not Jim Shooter, but Jim is my boss. I'm Lynn, his assistant. My job is to help Jim. And *that* means trying to help some of the people who call or come to Jim's office with questions or problems. Editors, writers, artists, movie producers, and other important Big Wheels come here to see Jim. I handle as much as I can for him because he's *soooo* busy! The most important people I help are *you*, the Marvel Comics fans out there who write or call with all sorts of serious (and sometimes crazy) questions. That's a huge job, so *I* have an assistant too! Her name is Margaret Clark, and she's terrific! We're here to help. We can tell you the best way to send in your art and writing submissions or help you find your local comics shop. *But*, we're real busy, so when you call or write to Jim or us, please be as brief as you can. Please clearly state what you want to know. We will find out and get back to you as soon as we can.

We get a *lot* of requests to give tours. We get so many requests that we couldn't possibly give a tour to everyone who asks – and since it isn't fair to pick just a few, we don't give any! We are working on doing something about that, because, really, we *love* giving tours. It's fun meeting other people who are as excited about Marvel Comics as we are (and it's one of the few times that Jim unchains us from our desks). But, until then, I thought I'd give you a quickie tour of the Marvel Bullpen.

JACK ABEL'S SHORTS...

Jack Abel is an inker (a *great* one!) who works in the Bullpen. His "shorts" are about 3 feet wide, have great big red polka dots, and are made of cardboard. Someone took a great big bite on one side! They are hanging at the front of Jack's drawing table where he often sleeps – err, um... works. I'm not certain why somebody stuck those shorts on Jack's table, but they sure look funny.

THE SANCTUARY OF THE ANCIENT ONE

Nearby to Jack reclines paste-up man Morrie Kuramoto, who, according to legend, is the oldest Bullpenner. He'll tell you about the healthful properties of onions, garlic and carrot juice – but see this month's Bullpen Bulletins Special, which appears in Marvel's three Direct-Only titles, *Micronauts*, *Moon Knight* and *Ka-Zar*, where Bullpen Manager Danny Crespi gets Morrie to tell all.

And Danny! Danny Crespi is an adorable cutie (maybe the nicest man in the whole world!) who's taken to wearing suspenders. Poor Danny, girls just love snapping suspenders.

RON'S COMMAND CENTER

Ron Zalme is Danny's assistant manager – it's no easy task to run the Bullpen. Besides all the other important stuff he does, Ron's duties include supervising the operation of the Bullpen's *toaster* (which he's nicknamed "ROM") and storing volleyball equipment. Yep, we sometimes play volleyball in nearby Madison Park at lunchtime!

PARKER'S ALL-NITE LETTERING SERVICE

Nearby to Ron is Rick Parker – ace letterer and all-around hard worker. This man doesn't ever go home! He's always working in the morning when I come in and even if I leave at 10 p.m. he's *still* there working. If he does go to sleep, I bet he sleeps with his Crowquill pen clenched tightly in his hand.

DESIGNER'S DEN

The Bullpen has a great design and production team. There's Joe Albelo, Barry Shapiro and Robbin Brosterman all in a row. They work on the magazines designing layouts and doing paste-ups and after they finish they climb out and dust themselves off.

ALSO IN THE 'PEN..

are Paul Becton, who does coloring and referencing, George Roussos, cover colorist, John Tartaglione, who does art corrections, and John Morelli, who's a letterer. They call John M. "Squid" because he worked on a ship one summer. He's *very* muscular (because he lifts weights) and he looks kinda like the Sub Mariner!

EDITOR'S ROW

Across from the Bullpen is Editor's Row, which is growing ever longer. Each office has a personality unique to each team. There are cartoons on the doors, walls and windows. There's all *sorts* of weird, crazy and fun things going on all the time. But there are too many of them for me to tell you all about all of them here – and besides, you hear more about them than the other Bullpenners.

STAT'S R US!

I mustn't forget Robbie Carusella and Harry Candelario who do the photostats and who are a big part of the Marvel Bullpen. Since every single page of every single Marvel Comics must pass through the stat room, their job is critically important. I try to treat them right! And, Robbie manages the Marvel Softball Team!

OUR 'PEN MOTHER

Who ties it all together? It's our lovely Traffic Manager Virginia Romita. Virginia is the one who encourages the editors to get the creative people to finish their work on time! She also makes sure that all in-house work gets out to the printers. Without Virginia you might have to wait MONTHS between your favorite titles. It's time Virginia gets some fan mail of her own! Thanks, Virginia.

THE THRONE ROOM!

Jim Shooter's office is along Editor's Row, but just a bit away from the Bullpen. He's got a *big* table for a desk. On his desk is the Bubblegum Machine that Terry Austin, Lea Sapp and I gave him for Christmas. We do our best to keep it filled with jelly beans for Jim, but Chris Claremont and everyone else keep doing their best to empty it! Jim's desk is surrounded by the piles of mail that he gets everyday. You already know that he reads all his mail. He'd love to *answer* it all, but of course, it just isn't humanly possible! Jim also has a swell comfy chair that swivels. And since he's away now, I'm sitting in his chair swiveling and writing *his* Bullpen Bulletin. I wonder if *anyone* will notice?

Take care,

Lynn

Lynn E. Cohen

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Watch out this month, true-believers! There's no way we can pick out just one or two books as especially exciting. The assistant editors have been going crazy with their brief thirty days at the helm of Marvel, so all our comics are bound to be... well, unique this month. If you don't want to miss any unheralded magic, charm, or silliness, you'd better buy *all* our titles! How's that for unabashed hype?

- ☐ **THE THING #7**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #202**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #11**
- ☐ **DAZZLER #30**
- ☐ **CONAN THE KING #20**
- ☐ **RETURN OF THE JEDI #4 (Limited Series)**
- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT SPECIAL EDITION #3**
- ☐ **MARVEL RETREAD FUNNIES #1**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #248**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #289**
- ☐ **THOR #339**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #13**
- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT #35**
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #56**
- ☐ **IRON MAN #175**
- ☐ **CRYSTAR #5**
- ☐ **MAGIK (Illyana and Storm Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **S.H.I.E.L.D. SPECIAL EDITION #2** – Second of two books reprinting **STERANKO'S** stunning S.H.I.E.L.D. stories
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #291**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #239**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #154**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #159** — Reprinting **Amazing Spider-Man #21** by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, "Where Flies the Beetle!"
- ☐ **X-MEN #177**
- ☐ **ROM #50**
- ☐ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #101**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #19**
- ☐ **CLOAK & DAGGER #4 (Limited Series)**
- ☐ **ELEKTRA SAGA #1 (Limited Series)**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #262**
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #137** — Aunt May and Franklin Richards
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #6**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #86**
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #127**
- ☐ **STAR WARS #79**
- ☐ **JACK OF HEARTS #1 (Limited Series)**
- ☐ **X-MEN CLASSICS #1 (Limited Series)** – More classic reprints from ROY THOMAS and NEAL ADAMS
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS SPECIAL EDITION #2 (Limited Edition)** – Re-presenting the original MANTLO GOLDEN sagas

MARVEL ANNUALS

- ☐ **AVENGERS ANNUAL #12** — Guest starring **the Inhumans.**
- ☐ **X-MEN ANNUAL #7**

MARVEL MAGAZINES

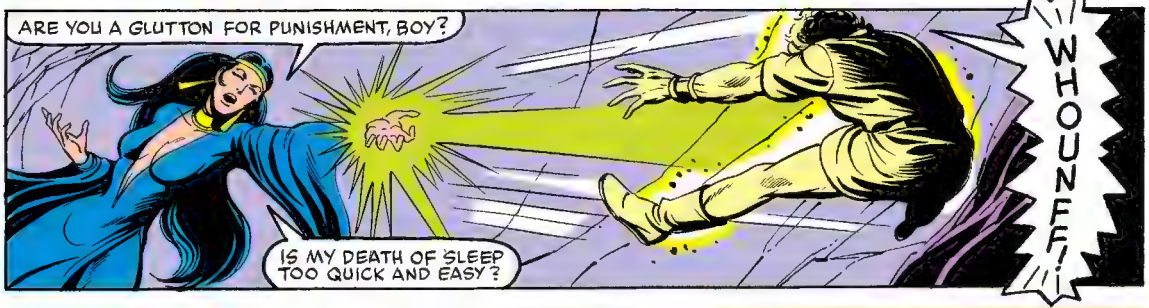
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #95**
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #10**
- ☐ **MARVEL FANFARE #12**

EPIC COMICS

- ☐ **EPIC ILLUSTRATED #21**
- ☐ **DREADSTAR #7**

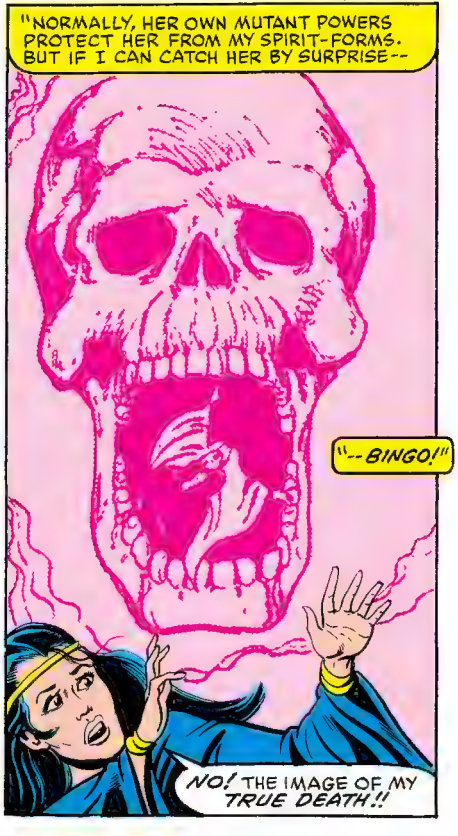
STOP IT, SELENE, PLEASE! SPARE THEM, LET THEM GO--I'LL DO ANYTHING. I'LL BECOME YOUR SLAVE--!
YOU BARGAIN FROM A POSITION OF ABSOLUTE WEAKNESS, MY DARLING.

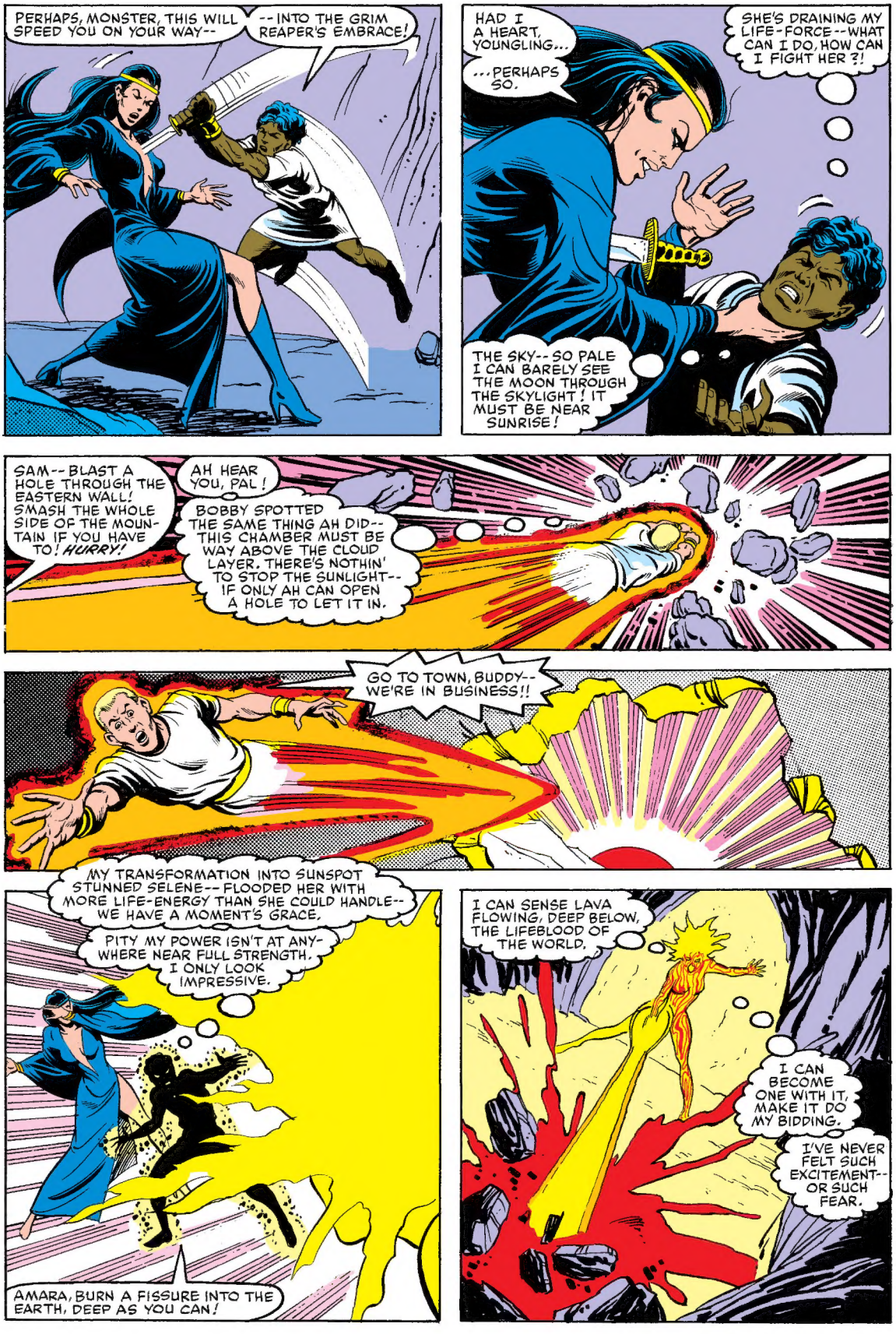
WHY GIVE UP ANYTHING WHEN, SOON ENOUGH, I'LL HAVE YOU ALL?
DON'T BEG, DANI. NOT FOR US, DON'T GIVE THIS WITCH THE SATISFACTION.
EH--?!?

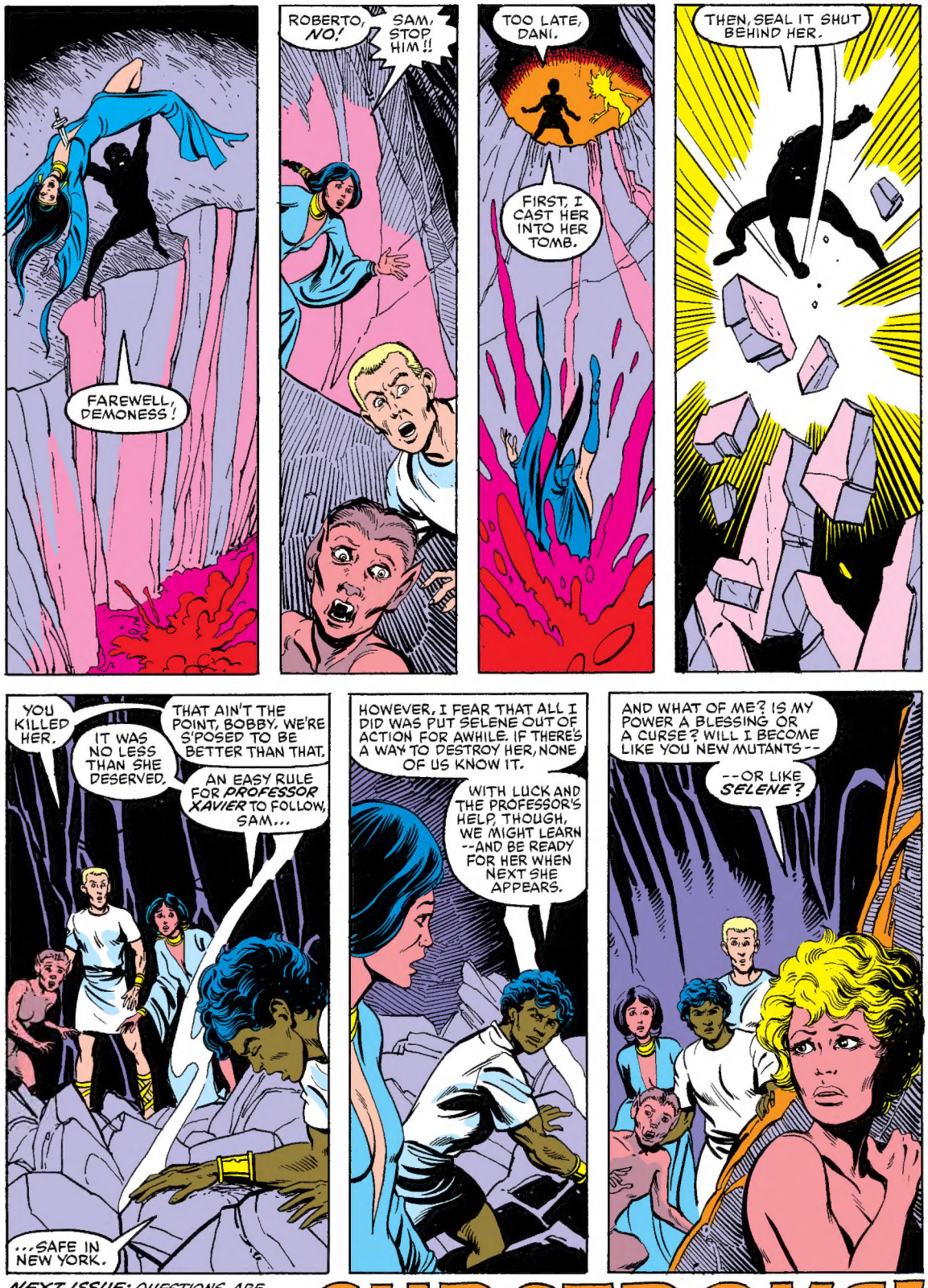

ARE YOU A GLUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT, BOY?
IS MY DEATH OF SLEEP TOO QUICK AND EASY?
WHOUNF!

WOULD YOU RATHER I REND YOU LIMB FROM BLOODY LIMB?
DO YOUR WORST, EVIL ONE. WITH MY LAST BREATH...
...I'LL DEFY YOU!
OH, REALLY?

SMART MOVE, DACOSTA, NOW YOU'VE REALLY MADE HER MAD.
HEY--MAYBE IT *WAS* SMART! SELENE'S POWER ISN'T INFINITE--SHE HAS LIMITS, TOO.
SELENE'S CONCENTRATING SO MUCH ON BOBBY, SHE'S WEAKENED HER HOLD ON ME.


"NORMALLY, HER OWN MUTANT POWERS PROTECT HER FROM MY SPIRIT-FORMS. BUT IF I CAN CATCH HER BY SURPRISE--
"--BINGO!"
NO! THE IMAGE OF MY *TRUE DEATH!!*


PERHAPS, MONSTER, THIS WILL SPEED YOU ON YOUR WAY--
--INTO THE GRIM REAPER'S EMBRACE!
HAD I A HEART, YOUNGLING...
...PERHAPS SO.
SHE'S DRAINING MY LIFE-FORCE--WHAT CAN I DO, HOW CAN I FIGHT HER?!
THE SKY--SO PALE I CAN BARELY SEE THE MOON THROUGH THE SKYLIGHT! IT MUST BE NEAR SUNRISE!
SAM--BLAST A HOLE THROUGH THE EASTERN WALL! SMASH THE WHOLE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN IF YOU HAVE TO! HURRY!
AH HEAR YOU, PAL!
BOBBY SPOTTED THE SAME THING AH DID--THIS CHAMBER MUST BE WAY ABOVE THE CLOUD LAYER. THERE'S NOTHIN' TO STOP THE SUNLIGHT--IF ONLY AH CAN OPEN A HOLE TO LET IT IN.
GO TO TOWN, BUDDY--WE'RE IN BUSINESS!!
MY TRANSFORMATION INTO SUNSPOT STUNNED SELENE--FLOODED HER WITH MORE LIFE-ENERGY THAN SHE COULD HANDLE--WE HAVE A MOMENT'S GRACE.
PITY MY POWER ISN'T AT ANYWHERE NEAR FULL STRENGTH. I ONLY LOOK IMPRESSIVE.
AMARA, BURN A FISSURE INTO THE EARTH, DEEP AS YOU CAN!
I CAN SENSE LAVA FLOWING, DEEP BELOW, THE LIFEBLOOD OF THE WORLD.
I CAN BECOME ONE WITH IT, MAKE IT DO MY BIDDING.
I'VE NEVER FELT SUCH EXCITEMENT--OR SUCH FEAR.


FAREWELL, DEMONESS!
ROBERTO, NO!
SAM, STOP HIM!!
TOO LATE, DANI.
FIRST, I CAST HER INTO HER TOMB.
THEN, SEAL IT SHUT BEHIND HER.
YOU KILLED HER.
IT WAS NO LESS THAN SHE DESERVED.
THAT AIN'T THE POINT, BOBBY. WE'RE S'POSED TO BE BETTER THAN THAT.
AN EASY RULE FOR *PROFESSOR XAVIER* TO FOLLOW, SAM...
...SAFE IN NEW YORK.
HOWEVER, I FEAR THAT ALL I DID WAS PUT SELENE OUT OF ACTION FOR AWHILE. IF THERE'S A WAY TO DESTROY HER, NONE OF US KNOW IT.
WITH LUCK AND THE PROFESSOR'S HELP, THOUGH, WE MIGHT LEARN --AND BE READY FOR HER WHEN NEXT SHE APPEARS.
AND WHAT OF ME? IS MY POWER A BLESSING OR A CURSE? WILL I BECOME LIKE YOU NEW MUTANTS --
--OR LIKE *SELENE?*

NEXT ISSUE: QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED, DECISIONS MADE-- AND RIO DE JANIERO VERY NEARLY GETS DESTROYED--WHEN ONE OF THE NEW MUTANTS COMES DOWN WITH A CASE OF

SUNSTROKE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE BROWN OF REKNOWN-- AND HIS ASSISTANT-EDITOR'S "LETTERS COLUMN!"

GREETINGS! I'M TAKING OVER THE LETTERS COLUMN TO AIR MY VIEWS AND LET YOU IN ON A GREAT CONTEST.

I DO A LOT OF THINKING HERE IN MARVEL'S READING ROOM, TOO MUCH, ACCORDING TO LOUISE. HELPING LOUISE IS A GREAT DEAL OF FUN. IT'S AN HONOR, REALLY, TO ADVANCE THE STATE OF THE ART OF COMICS AT MARVEL... ER, LET ME GET ON MY SOAPBOX.

NEW MUTANTS

COMICS ARE FANCIFUL ENOUGH WITHOUT THE INTRUSION OF "REAL" BOZOS, LIKE ME AND MY FELLOW ASSISTANTS.

BEING A MEMBER OF THE *MARVEL UNIVERSE* DEPARTMENT OF HARD KNOCKS...

...I AND MY COMRADES, HAVE COME TO VIEW THE COMICS' REALITY AS SOMETHING SACRED.

IVORY

BUT ENOUGH OF THAT. THE EDITORS WENT AWAY, FOOLS ENOUGH TO LEAVE US, THEIR ASSISTANTS, IN CHARGE...

MARVEL RADIATION LAB

SO, HERE IS AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF A GRAND, NEW CONTEST.

I'M GOING TO MAKE AVAILABLE TWO OF MY DEAREST FRIENDS IN THE MARVEL UNIVERSE...

...MY TWO LITTLE CHUMS... SHUFFLING ALONG WITH ME ALL THOSE ENDLESS, WORK-FILLED NIGHTS IN WHICH WE HELPED ORGANIZE THE *MARVEL UNIVERSE*.

TO WIN THESE, DEAR FRIENDS, WRITE AN ESSAY OF 30 WORDS OR LESS, TELLING ME THE KIND OF HOME YOU WILL GIVE MY TRUSTY PALS.

THE MOST MOVING ENTRY, JUDGED BY ME, WINS! INCLUDED WILL BE ONE FREE CAN OF LYSOL.

--BY BROWN and PARKER

YES, YOU CAN WIN ELIOT'S MARVEL UNIVERSE SLIPPER-SOCKS!!

MAIL ENTRIES (POST CARDS ONLY) TO: BROWN SOX/MARVEL 387 PARK AVE. So. N.Y., N.Y. 10016

CONTEST ENDS OCT. 31, 1983!

Digitized by

Syl3nt Bob and PhD

He's a gonna be OKAY!

I think...